

Response to Office Action  
Dated September 30, 2004

Appln. No. 10/651,198

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March 30, 2005

**REMARKS**

This is in response to the Office Action dated September 30, 2004. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Request for Extension of Time

Applicants request that the time to respond to the Action be extended three months, from December 30, 2004 to March 30, 2005. Enclosed is Credit Card Form PTO-2038 authorizing the charge of \$1,020 to cover the three-month extension fee established under 37 CFR 1.17(a)(3).

Acknowledgment of Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants acknowledge, with appreciation, that Claim 9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the recitation of its base claim and any intervening claims upon which it depends.

Summary of the Rejections

Claims 1-31 are pending in this application. Claims 4, 11-13 and 18-31 are canceled in response to the restriction requirement made final by the Examiner.

Claims 1, 6-8 and 10 and 14-17 are rejected as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,027,864 to Conti et al in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,843,542 to Brushafer et al. Claims 2-5 are rejected as obvious over Conti et al in view of Brushafer et al and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,754,685 to Kite et al.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's rejection and reserve the right to later file a continuing application presenting the rejected claims for examination on the merits. In the instant case, applicants have amended the

SYNNESTVEDT & LECHNER LLP

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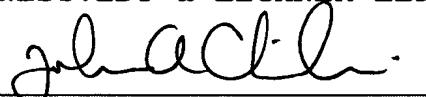
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claims as suggested by the Examiner to accept the subject matter deemed allowable.

In view of the amendments provided herewith, applicants contend that the application is in condition for allowance and request that it be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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JAC/dml  
Enclosures

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